

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00117 120825Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2264
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0117

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UR, NO, FI, XZ
SUBJECT: SOVIET NORDIC POLICY: NORDIC CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) 77 MOSCOW 18499 (231600Z DEC 77), (B) STOCKHOLM 0036
(041422Z JAN 78), (C) 77 HELSINKI 3084 (301310Z DEC 77)

1. SUMMARY: NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR IN HELSINKI BRIEFED
NATO COLLEAGUES AT MONTHLY LUNCHEON ON VISIT OF SOVIET
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ZEMSKOV TO NORWAY JANUARY 3-7.
HE SAID THAT AMONG TOPICS RAISED BY ZEMSKOV WAS THAT
OF A FORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORWAY AND THE SOVIET
UNION ON POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS. END SUMMARY.

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2. NORWAY'S AMBASSADOR TO FINLAND CHRISTIAN BERG-NIELSEN
AT THE MONTHLY LUNCHEON OF NATO AMBASSADOR SON JANUARY 11
REPORTED TO US ON SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ZEMSKOV'S
VISIT TO NORWAY JANUARY 3-7. WHILE WE REALIZE THAT EMBASSY
OSLO WILL BE REPORTING THE DETAILS ON ALL OF THE SUBJECTS COVERED
DURING ZEMSKOV'S VISIT, THE RECENT EXCHANGES INSPIRED BY
MOSCOW 18499 FOCUSED OUR ATTENTION ON THAT PART OF THE

REPORT CONCERNING POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS. BERG-NIELSEN SAID THAT ZEMSKOV ASKED THE NORWEGIANS ABOUT THE PROPOSED VISIT TO NORWAY OF SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO. THE NORWEGIANS CONFIRMED THEIR INVITATION TO GROMYKO AND SAID THEY WOULD RECEIVE HIM WHENEVER IT IS CONVENIENT FOR HIM. ZEMSKOV IS SAID TO HAVE REPLIED THAT GROMYKO IS NOT INTERESTED IN "IN JUST A COURTESY VISIT" NOR WOULD HE WISH TO GO TO NORWAY "JUST FOR SIGHTSEEING." THE SOVIETS BELIEVED THAT THE VISIT SHOULD HAVE SUBSTANCE AND THAT IT SHOULD CONCLUDE WITH A DOCUMENT DEMONSTRATING THAT SUBSTANCE. SPECIFICALLY, THEY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE THAT THE VISIT BE CONCLUDED BY THE SIGNING OF A BILATERAL USSR-NORWAY AGREEMENT ON POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS SUCH AS ALREADY IS IN PLACE WITH CANADA AND DENMARK. THE NORWEGIANS ARE SAID TO HAVE REPLIED THAT WHILE THEY ARE QUITE WILLING TO ENGAGE IN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS, AND INDEED SUCH CONSULTATIONS ALREADY TAKE PLACE AS OFTEN AS SEEMS NECESSARY, THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO ENTER INTO A FORMAL BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS.

3. BERG-NIELSEN TOLD US THAT THE SUBJECT OF A BILATERAL ON POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS IS NOT NEW. HE SAID IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BEFORE. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, HE DESCRIBED THE SOVIET PROPOSAL THIS TIME AS MORE FORMAL THAN PREVIOUS, CERTAINLY MORE THAN A SUGGESTION. CONFIDENTIAL

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ONCE THE NORWEGIANS RESPONDED TO IT, IT WAS NOT RAISED AGAIN.
RIDGWAY

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